

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 and 34, as amended, remain herein. Claims 33 and 35 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. Claims 5 and 9 have been amended to recite "wherein said undulated-wall honeycomb structure has a center portion surrounded by an outer portion when viewed in cross-section defined substantially perpendicular to said cell passage direction, and." See Fig. 16. Claim 30 has been amended to recite the honeycomb structure limitation recited in claim 1. Claims 1-12, 14-22, 24-32 and 34 have been edited for clarity and form.

2. In response to the restriction requirement under U.S.C. §112 and §372, applicants hereby provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-11 and 16-18, with traverse.

Applicants also request that Group I of the restriction requirement be defined to include claims 30-32, wherein claim 30 has been amended to recite the honeycomb structure limitation of claim 1, and claims 31 and 32 depend from claim 30. Therefore, all claims 1-11, 16-18 and 30-32 properly belong in Group I.

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Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement since the subject matter of all claims 1-34 (now claims 1-32 and 34) is sufficiently related that a thorough and complete search for the subject matter of the elected claims should necessarily encompass a thorough and complete search for the subject matter of the non-elected claims. Search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 which states: "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits." This policy should apply in the present application to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to applicant and unnecessary duplicative examination by the USPTO.

3. Responsive to the election of species requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 applicants hereby provisionally elect Species 1, claims 30-32.

The same arguments stated herein traversing the Restriction Requirement also apply to the Election of Species Requirement, which is also traversed, and for the same reasons stated herein the Election of Species Requirement should be withdrawn and a search

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for the subject matter of all claims 1-34 (now claims 1-32 and 34) be made.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' undersigned representatives.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

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Date

  
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